(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This was considered but could not be acceded to in view of position at (a) above. The State Government was suitably informed.

Changes in retention price of urea

1062. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fertilizers Association of India has expressed its deep concern over the latest decision to make changes in the retention price scheme with retrospective effect from 7th and 8th pricing policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Fertilizer Association of India (FAI) has, in its various representations submitted to the Government, expressed its views, comments and suggestions on formulation of policy parameters for 7th and 8th pricing period. FAI has expressed its reservations on retrospective implementation of the policy parameters and updating of certain norms and parameters. After consideration of all issues involved and particularly the fact that the 6th and 6th A pricing period was valid up to 30.6.1997, the competent authority has recently approved the policy parameters for 7th and 8th pricing periods. The 7th pricing period will cover the period from 1.7.1997 to 31.3.2000 and the 8th pricing period will cover the period from 1.4.2000 to 31.3.2003 or till new pricing policy comes into effect, whichever is earlier.

Tax on production of fertilizers

† 1063. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government charge various types of taxes on the production of chemical fertilizers including urea in the country;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of such taxes togetherwith the rates at which these taxes are charged; and

(c) the items of raw-material used for production of chemicals fertilizers which are imported togetherwith the rates at which import tax is charged thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRITAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No Excise Duty is levied on fertilizers. However, State Governments Levy Sale Tax and other taxes on fertilizers and inputs used in the manufacturing of fertilizers. Rates of these taxes vary from State to State and from time to time.

(c) The major raw materials imported for production of fertilizers are phosphoric acid, ammonia, rock phosphate and sulphur. Custom Duty at the rate of 5% is presently levied on import of these raw materials. In addition, special additional duty at the rate of 4.2% is also being levied on import of rock phosphate and sulphur *w.e.f.* 1.4.2002.

Power consumption by fertilizer units

† 1064. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate some rules governing consumption of power by fertilizer units;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this regard so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) A Committee was constituted to examine the issue of disallowance in capacity of captive power plant and steam generation plant for retention price purposes. The Committee has recently submitted its report which is under examination.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.